

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 /086 W

----- 042422

R 151948Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9062

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CS ETRD

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT PEREZ
ON U.S. TRADE ACT

1. FONMIN FACIO CALLED CHARGE TO MINISTRY LATE JAN 14
TO PROVIDE COPY OF PRESIDENT ODUBER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT
PEREZ ON THE U.S. TRADE ACT. LETTER WAS DATED JAN 13
BUT FONMIN SAID THAT IT WAS DELIVERED TO VENEZUELAN
AMBASSADOR HERE ON 14TH. COPIES ARE ALSO BEING
PROVIDED TO OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND TO ECUADOR.

2. LETTER SAYS THAT COSTA RICA SHARES VELEZUELA'S CONCERN
OVER THE "DISCRIMINATORY NORMS AND COERCIVE NATURE" OF THE
TRADE LAW, AND WILL SUPPORT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE
FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION IN THE OAS TO ACHIEVE CORRECTIVE
ACTION BY THE

U.S. LETTER SAYS THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR

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IN THE LAW WHETHER THE "DISCRIMINATORY" ACTION AGAINST

OPEC COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO BE APPLIED TO COUNTRIES SEEKING TO PROTECT THE PRICE OF COFFEE BUT IN ANY CASE THE AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED IN THE CONGRESS "REFLECT AN ATTITUDE OF ANTAGONISM AND EVEN OF REPRISAL AGAINST THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH, WITH EVERY RIGHT, ARE FIGHTING TO PREVENT BOTH LARGE TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES AND THOSE WHICH CONTROL THE MARKETS OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FROM MANIPULATING THE PRICE OF BASIC PRODUCTS TO THEIR CONVENIENCE".

3. LETTER STATES THAT SINCE GSP PROVISIONS OF LAW COVER ONLY MANUFACTURED AND SEMI-MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, EXCLUDING BOTH TEXTILES AND SHOES, COSTA RICA DOES NOT EXPORT IN SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY ANY PRODUCTS WHICH MIGHT BE BENEFITED BY GSP. COSTA RICA'S SUPPORT OF THE VENEZUELAN POSITION THEREFORE DOES NOT REFLECT ITS OWN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, WHICH GSP DOES NOT AFFECT, BUT RATHER A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE IN THAT THE LAW INCLUDES "DISCRIMINATORY NORMS WHICH VIOLATE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-AMERICAN LIFE (CONVIVENCIA) WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR WORLD HARMONY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRIES".

4. LETTER REJECTS ARGUMENT THAT PROMULGATION OF TRADE LAW IS STRICTLY INTERNAL MATTER OF U.S. SINCE LAW OF SUCH A POWERFUL NATION HAS DIRECT APPLICATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND BECAUSE BY INTRODUCING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS IN THE LAW, THE CONGRESS "VIOLATED THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY THE U.S. IN UNCTAD AND IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE U.N." AS WELL AS IN ARTICLES 19, 34, 37, 40 AND 41 OF THE OAS CHARTER.

5. ODUBER'S LETTER GOES ON TO AGREE WITH PEREZ THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT LIMIT THEMSELVES TO MAKING COMPLAINTS BUT RATHER SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE REVOCATION OF THE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE ACTION IN THE OAS. THIS COULD BEST BE SOUGHT IN A MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OR IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. GIVEN THE PROXIMITY OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ODUBER RECOMMENDS THAT FORUM AND SUGGESTS THAT COMING MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD PLACE THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

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6. LATTER PORTION OF LETTER, WHICH FONMIN CALLED TO CHARGE'S PARTICULAR ATTENTION, ARGUES THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO ABSTAIN FROM ATTENDING THE PLANNED MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN BUENOS AIRES AS A PROTEST TO THE TRADE LAW. THE LETTER TRACES THE HISTORY OF THE NEW DIALOGUE AND EMPHASIZES THAT IT WAS THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WHICH IN LARGE MEASURE PROMOTED THE CONTINUATION OF THESE MEETINGS OUTSIDE THE

FORMAL STRUCTURE OF THE OAS. ODUBER EMPHASIZES AGAIN THAT IT WAS THE U.S. CONGRESS AND NOT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHICH INTRODUCED THE OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE LAW, AND CALLS FOR USE OF ALL CHANNELS INCLUDING THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER TO SEEK RELIEF.

7. FULL TEXT OF LETTER, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S PRESS, WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

LANE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Type: TE
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